passenger buses on the lines of the national permit policy for goods transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons there for ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per section 88, sub-section 9 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the State Transport Authorities are empowered to grant permits in respect of tourist vehicles valid for the whole of India or in such contiguous states not being less than three in number including the State in which the permit is issued. However, such vehicles are required to pay in full the relevant taxes in each of the States where it operates. A scheme in respect of tourist vehicles on the pattern of the national permits for goods carriers is one of the items for discussion by the Transport Development Council in its next meeting.

Strike by lawyers in Delhi

3792. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lawyers of Delhi Courts have been on strike for the past several months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to solve the crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The lawyers of the Tis Hazari Courts have been on strike demanding mainly that the pecuniary jurisdiction of the District Court should not be bifurcated.

(c) The government is of the view that the interest of the litigant public of Delhi has to be the main criterion in effecting changes and that both the proposals need to be implemented simultaneously. The Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 1991 raising the pecuniary jurisdiction of District Court has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 1991 and is presently under processing in the Lok Sabha. As regards the matter of decentralisation off the District Court, the same is in an advanced stage of consideration in consultation with Delhi Administration and Delhi High Court.

Customs Retail Shops Selling Confiscated Goods in Bihar

3793. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of authorised Customs retail shops selling confascated goods in Bihar;

(b) whether the smuggled goods are also sold in unauthorised shops; and

(c) if so, the value of goods seized by the Customs authorities from shops during the year 1990 and 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) Available reports indicate that there are 39 shops located at various places in Bihar which are authorised to sell confiscated goois in retail.

(b) and (c) : Government is aware that smuggled goods of foreign origin are being illegally sold. In Bihar alone, goods worth